

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, Applicants request favorable reconsideration of the above-identified application.

Claims 1 through 13 are now presented for examination. Claims 5, 6 and 8-12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7 and 13 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention, in terms which distinguish over the art of record. Claim 1 is the only independent claim. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-4, 7, and 13 remain pending in this application, with claim 1 being independent. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 4, 7, and 13, and have cancelled claims 5, 6, and 8-12 without prejudice.

Claims 1-4 and 13/1-13/4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,233,426 (Lee et al.). Claims 5-12, 13/5, 13/6, and 13/10-13/12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over (Lee et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,541,712 (Fujitaka). With regard to the claims as currently amended, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 as currently amended is directed to an original cover arrangement of an image reading apparatus in which a cover member covers an original placed on an original stand. A hinge member has one end supported by the cover member by means of rotary shafts arranged such that the cover member and the hinge member are pivotable relative to each other about the rotary shafts. The other end of the hinge member is mounted on and pivotally supported by the original stand. A biasing member biases the cover member in a direction in which the cover member is opened with respect to the hinge member. The cover member is

restrained with respect to the hinge member in the axial direction of the rotary shafts by the biasing member.

In Applicants' view, Lee et al. discloses a cover assembly having a cover member and plural articulated links. One end of each link is pivotally mounted to a recessed region of a housing body and an opposed end of the link is pivotally mounted to extending legs of the rigid cover member. Articulated movement of the cover assembly enables the cover member to assume a substantially parallel disposition relative the platen regardless of the thickness of document. The rigid cover is allowed to remain substantially vertical in its fully raised position. The engagement of top portions of the links and flat areas on rear wall of the cover member between the extending legs stops the cover from pivoting towards the backs of the links.

In Applicants' opinion, Fujitaka et al. discloses a document pressing device in a copier that has a holder member pivotally engaged with a base member at its base end. A bracket is pivotally connected to the other end of the holder member by a shaft. An inner sleeve has its bottom pivotally engaged with a lug formed on the base member and positioned closer to a glass platen than the base end of the holder member. An outer sleeve has its bottom pivotally connected to the free end of the bracket and positioned closer to the glass platen than the point about which the bracket is pivotable. When a relatively thick document is laid on the glass platen, the device allows a cover for pressing the document to be smoothly lifted up or returned to its original position. The device, therefore, enhances the manipulability of the cover plate.

According to the invention of Claim 1, a biasing member biases the cover member in the direction in which the cover member is opened with respect to the hinge member the cover member and is restrained with respect to the hinge member in the axial direction of the rotary

shafts of the cover member supporting one end of the hinge member by the biasing member.

Advantageously, the biasing of the cover member in the axial direction of the pivotal axis of the hinge member makes the axial positional relationship between the rotary shafts of the original cover and the hinge member constant so that play or slop is avoided.

Lee et al. may teach an original cover member and a hinge member that has one end pivotally supported by the cover member and the other end mounted on and pivotally supported by an original stand. As recognized by the Examiner, however, Lee et al. does not disclose a biasing member that biases the cover member in a direction in which the cover member is opened and it is not seen that Lee et al. in any manner teaches or suggests restraining of a cover member with respect to a hinge member in the direction of pivotable rotary shafts of the cover member supporting one end of the hinge member by the biasing member.

Fujitaka et al. may disclose an image reading apparatus having a main body, a hinge member, a pressure plate and a spring that biases the pressure plate in the open and close direction. It is not seen, however, that Fujitaka et al. in any manner teaches or suggests the feature of Claim 1 of restraining a cover member with respect to a hinge member in the axial direction of rotary shafts by which the hinge member is supported by the cover member by a biasing member.

With regard to the cited combination, Lee et al. is devoid of any teaching of biasing member that biases the cover member in a direction in which the cover member is opened or which restrains the cover member with respect to the hinge member in an axial direction of rotary shafts by which a hinge member is supported by the cover member. Fujitaka et al. may teach a spring that biases a pressure plate in the open and close direction but fails in any manner to

suggest the feature of Claim 1 of restraining the cover member with respect to the hinge member in the axial direction of the rotary shafts by the biasing member that biases the cover in a direction in which the cover is opened with respect to the hinge member. Accordingly, it is not seen that the addition of Fujitaka et al.'s spring that biases a pressure plate in the open and close direction to Lee et al.'s original cover member and a hinge member that has one end pivotally supported by the cover member and the other end mounted on and pivotally supported by an original stand could possibly suggest the feature of Claim 1 of a cover member that is restrained with respect to the hinge member in the axial direction of the rotary shafts of the cover member supporting one end of the hinge member by a biasing member that biases the cover member in the open/close direction with respect to the hinge member. It is therefore believed that Claim 1 as currently amended is completely distinguished from any combination of Lee et al. and Fujitaka et al. and is allowable.

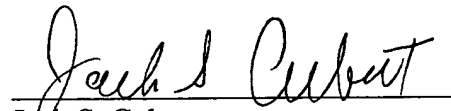
A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' attorney, Michael J. Didas, may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jack S. Cubert", written over a horizontal line.

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